

Additional Alabama Disaster Recovery Centers to Open

MONTGOMERY, AL—State and federal disaster officials announce the opening of three additional Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in southern Alabama on Monday, September 5, bringing to five the number of Gulf Coast centers open to assist those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

DRCs serve as one-stop information centers and offer disaster victims a chance to talk face-to-face with recovery specialists, as well as state and local volunteer organizations who can provide additional assistance or help with immediate unmet needs for disaster victims

Anyone affected by Hurricane Katrina, including out-of-state evacuees, can visit any DRC to ask about federal/state individual assistance programs such as low-interest disaster loans available from the U.S. Small Business Administration for homeowners, renters and businesses.

The DRCs opening in Baldwin County, Monday, September 5, 2005 at 7 a.m., are:

<u>Baldwin County</u>	<u>Baldwin County</u>	<u>Baldwin</u>
Bay Minette Fire Station #2 Gymnasium 603 Hwy 31 South Greeno Road Bay Minette, AL	Long Term Recovery Center 21955 Hibbing Lane Robertsdale, AL	Fairhope 801 North Fairhope, AL

All DRCs are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Before visiting any Recovery Center, disaster victims are urged to call FEMA's toll-free application number **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or for the speech- or hearing-impaired **1-800-462-7585 (TTY)**. The toll-free telephone numbers are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Multilingual operators are available at these numbers to assist disaster victims. Applications for assistance can also be completed online at <http://www.fema.gov>.

Written materials about various assistance programs are also available to individuals and business owners along with information about mitigation steps that individuals can take in rebuilding to reduce the risk of future disaster loss or damage.

[Editors: A complete table of Disaster Recovery Centers is on Page 2].

Current DRCs now open:

<u>Baldwin County</u> Bay Minette Fire Station #2 603 Hwy 31 South Bay Minette, AL Long Term Recovery Center 21955 Hibbing Lane Robertsdale, AL Fairhope Gymnasium 801 North Greeno Fairhope, AL	<u>Mobile County</u> Bayou La Batre Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 12700 Padgett Switch Road Bayou La Batre, AL	<u>Washington County</u> Woodman of the World Lodge 18051 Jordon Street Chatom, AL
--	---	--

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages the federal response and recovery efforts following an incident of national significance. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities to reduce the risk of loss in future disasters, trains first responders, workers with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.